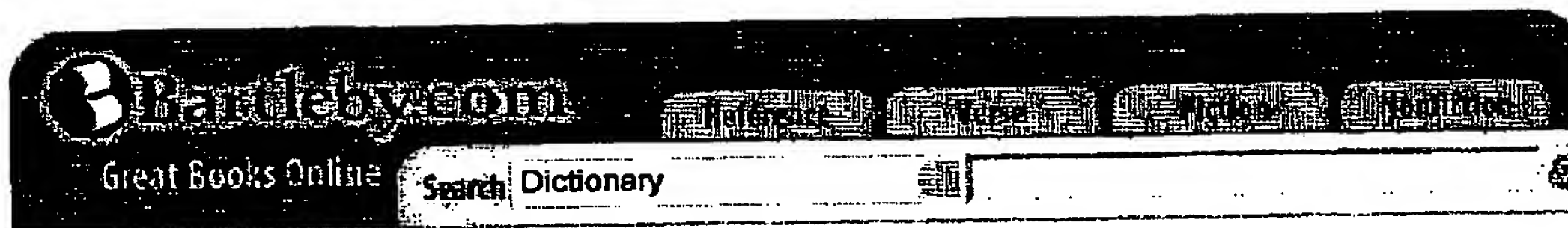


define. The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 20... Page 1 of 2



Home | Subjects | Titles | Authors | Encyclopedia | Dictionary | Thesaurus | Quotations | English Usage

Reference > American Heritage® > Dictionary

< defile²

definiendum >

[CONTENTS](#) · [INDEX](#) · [ILLUSTRATIONS](#) · [BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD](#)

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

define

SYLLABICATION: de·fine

PRONUNCIATION: ˈdɪ-fɪn'

VERB: Inflected forms: **de·fined**, **de·fin·ing**, **de·fines**

TRANSITIVE VERB: **1a.** To state the precise meaning of (a word or sense of a word, for example). **b.** To describe the nature or basic qualities of; explain: *define the properties of a new drug; a study that defines people according to their median incomes.* **2a.** To delineate the outline or form of: *gentle hills that were defined against the sky.* **b.** To specify distinctly: *define the weapons to be used in limited warfare.* **3.** To give form or meaning to: "For him, a life is defined by action" (Jay Parini, *Boston Globe Magazine* Oct. 1, 1990).

INTRANSITIVE VERB: To make or write a definition.

ETYMOLOGY: Middle English *definen*, *diffinen*, from Old French *definir*, *diffiner*, from Latin *dēfinīre*, to limit, determine : *dē-*, intensive pref.; see *de-* + *finis*, boundary, limit.

OTHER FORMS: **de·fin'a·bil'i·ty** —NOUN
de·fin'a·ble —ADJECTIVE
de·fin'a·bly —ADVERB
de·fine'ment —NOUN
de·fin'er —NOUN

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition. Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by the

<http://www.bartleby.com/61/41/D0094100.html>

4/26/2006

define. The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 20... Page 2 of 2

Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

[CONTENTS](#) · [INDEX](#) · [ILLUSTRATIONS](#) · [BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD](#)

< [defile²](#)

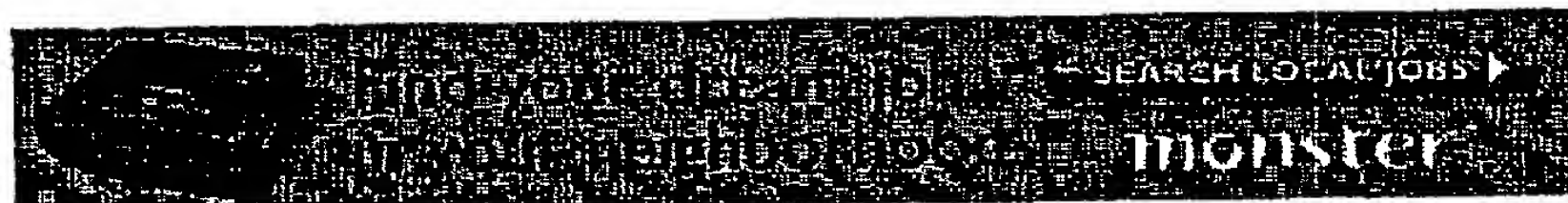
[definiendum](#) >

Google™

Search

Click [here](#) to shop the [Bartleby Bookstore](#).

[Welcome](#) · [Press](#) · [Advertising](#) · [Linking](#) · [Terms of Use](#) · © 2005 [Bartleby.com](#)



BEST AVAILABLE COPY